THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

STAFF REPORT

OF THE

ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT

AND

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

LL RUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

JUL 2 3 1997

ORIGINAL

DOCKET NO. 96-376-S
PALMETTO UTILITIES, INC.

REPORT OF ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 96-376-S
PALMETTO UTILITIES, INC.

REPORT OF ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 96-376-S

PALMETTO UTILITIES, INC.

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REPORT OF ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA DOCKET NO. 96-376-S PALMETTO UTILITIES, INC.

SYNOPSIS

Amount Requested	
Per Company	\$ 112,539*
Per Staff	112,539*
Percentage Increase	
Operating Margin	
Per Books	(94.48%)
As Adjusted	(3.64%)
After Proposed Increase	7.03%

^{*}The Accounting Department was furnished these figures by the Utilities Department.

REPORT OF ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 96-376-S

PALMETTO UTILITIES, INC.

ANALYSIS

The Accounting Department Staff has made a review of the Application of Palmetto Utilities, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "the Company") along with certain of the Company's accounting records, relative to the Company's application for authority to increase certain rates and charges as shown in Docket No. 96-376-S.

The Accounting Department respectfully submits the results of its review as follows:

- The Company filed an application on March 17, 1997 for approval of rates and charges for sewer service provided to its residential customers in Richland County.
- 2. This matter was set for public hearing on Tuesday, July 29, 1997 at 1:30 p.m.
- 3. The Company's principal place of business is at One Smallwood Circle, Columbia, South Carolina 29223.
- 4. The Company's application utilizes a April 30, 1996 test period and requests an increase in revenues of \$112,539 for sewer operations.
- 5. The Company's present rates were approved in Docket No. 94-116-S, Order No. 95-1098 dated May 25, 1995.

The Accounting Department Staff's exhibits relative to the Company's proposed increase are as follows:

EXHIBIT A: OPERATING EXPERIENCE AND OPERATING MARGIN

Shown in this exhibit are the Company's sewer operations for the twelve months ended April 30, 1996, with respect to Operating Experience and Operating Margin. The exhibit's format is designed to reflect per book information and applicable accounting and pro forma adjustments necessary to normalize the results of the Company's test year operations.

Staff verified the per book balances to the Company's books and records. The book figures reflect that the Company's Operating Revenues totalled \$862,973. Total Operating Expenses amounted to \$1,147,152 resulting in Net Operating Income (Loss) of (\$284,179). Total Income (Loss) for Return of (\$284,179) less interest expense of \$531,154, and Operating Revenues of \$862,973 produced an Operating Margin of (94.48%).

Staff normalized the Company's operations by employing Adjustments #1 through #6. The net effect of the adjustments decreased Total Income (Loss) for Return from (\$284,179) to \$108,382. Operating Revenues of \$881,556 and Total Income (Loss) For Return of \$108,382, less interest expense of \$140,464, produced an Operating Margin of (3.64%).

The Company has requested an increase in rates which would produce additional gross annual revenues of \$112,539 for sewer operations based on information supplied by the Utilities Department.

After the proposed increase, Operating Revenues amounted to \$994,095 and Operating Expenses amounted to \$793,939 which produced Net Operating Income (Loss) of \$200,156. Customer Growth of \$10,168 was added to this amount for Total Income (Loss) for Return of \$210,324. Operating Revenues of \$994,095 and Total Income (Loss) For

Return of \$210,324, less interest expense of \$140,464, produced an Operating Margin of 7.03%.

EXHIBIT A-1: EXPLANATION OF ACCOUNTING AND PRO FORMA ADJUSTMENTS

Shown in this exhibit are the details of each accounting and pro forma adjustment necessary to normalize the Company's sewer operations and to reflect the proposed increase. For comparative purposes, Company and Staff adjustments are both presented in this exhibit.

EXHIBIT A-2: DEPRECIATION EXPENSE ADJUSTMENT

Shown in this exhibit is Staff's annualized depreciation expense, with the total depreciable amount being reduced by Contributions in Aid of Construction. Staff annualized depreciation expense using rates supplied by the Staff's Utilities Department.

EXHIBIT A-3: COMPUTATION OF INCOME TAXES

Shown in this exhibit is the computation of income taxes using the composite tax rate of 19.25% (15% federal and 5% state).

EXHIBIT A-4: COMPUTATION OF CUSTOMER GROWTH

Total customers during the test year increased from 2,916 to 3,228 producing a growth factor of 5.08%. Staff applied this factor to the Net Operating Income for sewer operations as adjusted and after the proposed increase.

EXHIBIT A-5: INCOME STATEMENT-FOR THE TEST YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 1996

Income statement figures for the test year ending April 30, 1996 are reflected in this exhibit. Staff verified all balances contained in this statement to the Company's books and records.

EXHIBIT A-6: BALANCE SHEET-FOR THE TEST YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 1996

Shown in this exhibit is the statement of financial position for the Company as of the end of the test year, April 30, 1996.

Palmetto Utilities, Inc. Operating Experience and Operating Margin Test Year Ended April 30, 1996

Description Operating Revenues Operating Expenses	Per Books \$ 862,973	(2) Accounting and Pro Forma Adjustments \$ 18,583 (1)	(3) As Adjusted \$ 881,556	(4) Effect of Proposed Increase \$ 112,539(7)	(5) After Proposed Increase \$ 994,095
operating Expenses					
Operation	249,159	0	249,159	0	249,159
Maintenance	200,563	(85,250)(2)	115,313	0	115,313
Administrative and General	259,842	(6,342)(3)	253,500	0	253,500
Depreciation	376,471	(277,015)(4)	99,456	0	99,456
Extraordinary Equip. Retirement	11,274	0	11,274	0	11,274
Taxes Other Than Income	49,843	(* 131)(5)	49,712	1,295(8)	51,007
Income Taxes (A)	0	0	0	14,230(9)	14,230
Total Operating Expenses	1,147,152	(368,738)	778,414	15,525	793,939
Net Operating Income (Loss)	(284,179)	387,321	103,142	97,014	200,156
Add: Customer Growth (B)	0	5,240(6)	5,240	4,928(10)	10,168
Total Income (Loss) For Return	(284,179)	392,561	108,382	101,942	210,324
Operating Margin (C)	(94.48%)		(3.64%)		7.03%

⁽A) Computation of Income Taxes is shown on Exhibit A-3.

⁽B) Computation of Customer Growth shown on Exhibit A-4.

⁽C) The Operating Margin reflects Total Income (Loss) for Return less Interest Expense of \$531,154 per books, and \$140,464 as adjusted and after the proposed increase.

Explanation of Accounting and Pro Forma Adjustments Palmetto Utilities, Inc.

Test Year Ended April 30, 1996

Description	(1) Operating	(2)	(3) Admin. &	(4)	(5) Taxes Other	(6) Customer
	₩	\$	5	\$ \$	Inan Income \$	Growth
To adjust sewer operating revenues for year-end customers at present rates. (Utilities)						
Per Staff Per Company	29,178 0					
To remove nonrecurring revenue for disposal of rainwater run-off for the Leachate Company. Per Commission order, the Company no longer provides this service. (Utilities)			·			
Per Staff Per Company	(10,595) (' 10,595)					
To remove from operating expenses, costs associated with installing taps. (Acct.)						
Per Staff		(85,250)				

(2,895) 0

To remove nonallowable expenses. These items are considered nonallowable for

Per Company

ratemaking purposes. (Acct.)

Per Company

Per Staff

Explanation of Accounting and Pro Forma Adjustments Test Year Ended April 30, 1996 Palmetto Utilities, Inc.

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(9)
	Operating		Admin. &		Taxes Other	Customer
Description	Revenues	Maintenance	General	Depreciation	Than Income	Growth
	₩	₩	\$	ş	v	V
To correct per book rate case expenses			•	•	>	ኍ
and to amortize the present rate case						

expenses over a three-year period. The

Company amortized an estimate of rate

case expenses. (Acct.)

Per Company

Per Staff

6,532	11,167

administrative employees. A portion To correct per book benefits for of the expense was left out of the per book amount. (Acct.) Per Staff

Per Company

2,475

2,475

To adjust the salary for Stan Jones to a level comparable to other sewer companies of similar size. Staff reduced the salary from \$112,054 to \$104,600. (Acct.)

Per Company Per Staff

Company does not routinely give bonuses To remove bonus for Stan Jones. The to Mr. Jones. (Acct.)

Per Company Per Staff

5,000) 0

7,454)

Palmetto Utilities, Inc.

Explanation of Accounting and Pro Forma Adjustments Test Year Ended April 30, 1996

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(9)
	Operating		Admin. &		Other	Customer
Description	Revenues	Maintenance	General	Depreciation	Than Income	Growth
To correct per book depreciation expense. The company inadvertently used the incorrect number for the per book amount. (Acct.)	ഗ	w	‹ ›	√r-	\$	w
Per Staff Per Company				(230,532) (230,532)		
To annualize depreciation expense using rates recommended by the Utilities Department. Plant was reduced by Contributions in Aid of Construction before depreciation was computed. (Utilities & Acct.)	ent.		•			
Per Staff Per Company				(81,383)		
To include depreciation expense for plant completed outside the test year. (Utilities & Acct.)	<u>.</u>					
Per Staff Per Company				17,136 14,850		
To include current depreciation expense on cumulative tap fees. Staff depreciated the taps using the cumulative depreciation rate. (Acct.)						
Per Staff Per Company				17,764 0		

Accounting Exhibit A-1 Page 4 of 5

Palmetto Utilities, Inc. Explanation of Accounting and Pro Forma Adjustments Test Year Ended April 30, 1996

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	_	(5)	(9)
	Operating		Admin. &			Taxes Other	2
Description	Revenues	Maintenance	General	Depre	Depreciation	Than Income	
To adjust payroll taxes for the reduction in Stan Jones' salary.	ss.	₩	w	₩		\$	s
(Act.) Per Staff							
Per Company						(131)	
						0	
To adjust for customer growth. Details shown on Exhibit A-4. (Acct.)							
Per Staff							2,000
Per Company			-				0 17 16
Total Revenue and Expense Adjustments Per Staff	18,583	(85,250)	(6,34	(6,342) (277,015)	77,015)	(131)	5,240

Page 5 of 5

Explanation of Accounting and Pro Forma Adjustments Test Year Ended April 30, 1996 Palmetto Utilities, Inc.

	le r	ų.	Ī							
(10)	Customer	Growth	\$			4,928				4,928
(6)	Income	Taxes	\$			14,230	0	,	•	14,230
(8)	Taxes Other	Than Income	₩			1,295	0			1,295
(7)	Operating	Revenues	₩			112,539	112,539			112,539
		Description	To account for the effect of the	proposed increase. (Utilities &	Act.)	Per Staff	Per Company	Total Accounting and Pro Forma	Adjustments-Proposed Increase-	Per Staff

Utilities - Utilities Department Per Staff

Acct. - Accounting Department

Palmetto Utilities, Inc. Depreciation Expense Adjustment Test Year Ended April 30, 1996

				Composite
Description	Cost	Rate	Expense	Rate
	\$	%	\$	8
Collection Sewer	160,350	2.00%	3,207	
Electric Pump Equipment-Fully Deprec.	90,000	20.00%	<u> </u>	
Sewer Lines	111,487	2.00%	2,230	
Pump Equipment - Sewer	82,160	10.00%	8,216	
Treatment & Disposal Equipment	1,581,453	4.00%	63,258	
Sewer Lines	2,142,494	2.00%	42,850	
Electric Pump Equipment	5,475	20.00%	1,095	
Treatment Plant	18,127	4.00%	725	
Blower	4,000	16.67%	667	
Computer Equipment	5,570	20.00%	1,114	
Control Panel	1,117 *	10.00%	112	
Office Equipment	9,085	20.00%	1,817	
*Donated Lines	2,589,483		. 0	
Pumping Equipment-Fully Deprec.	128		0	
Time Clock-Fully Deprec.	20		0	
Treatment Plant	44,225	4.00%	1,769	
Pumping Equipment	138,613	10.00%	13,861	
Pumping Equipment-Fully Deprec.	271		. 0	
Custom Trailer	800	5.00%	40	
Treatment Plant - Trunkline	1,868	4.00%	75	
Collection Sewer	15,921	2.00%	318	
*Highland Subdivision - Donated Plant	219,643		0	
Total Plant Per Books	7,222,290			
Less: Fully Deprec. Electric Pump	90,419			
*Donated Lines	2,809,126	-		
Total Depreciable Plant	4,322,745	•	141,354	3.27%
Less: Remaining CIAC	(2,465,090)	2		
(\$5,274,216 - \$2,809,126)			•	
Net Depreciable Plant	1,857,655			
Composite Depreciation Rate	3.27%			
Depreciation Expense Allowed	60,745			
Depreciation Expense Per Books	142,128			
Staff's Adjustment	(81,383)			•

Palmetto Utilities, Inc. Computation of Income Taxes Test Year Ended April 30, 1996

After Proposed Increase

Operating Revenues	994,095
Less: Operating Expenses	(779,709)
Interest Expense	(140,464)
Taxable Income	73,922
Composite Tax Rate	19.25%
Income Taxes After the Proposed Increase	14,230

Palmetto Utilities, Inc. Computation of Customer Growth Test Year Ended April 30, 1996

Customers (SFEs) at 4-30-95	2,916
Customers (SFEs) at 4-30-96	3,228
Average Customers (SFEs)	3,072

Formula:

3,228 - 3,072	=	5.08%
3,072		=====

		Effect of	After
	As	Proposed	Proposed
	Adjusted	Increase	Increase
	\$	\$	\$
Net Operating Income	103,142	97,014	200,156
Growth Factor	5.08%	5.08%	5.08%
Customer Growth	5,240	4,928	10,168
	========		Francisco

SFEs - Single Family Equivalents

Palmetto Utilities, Inc. Income Statement (Corrected) Test Year Ended April 30, 1996

	•		
INCOME	\$	\$	\$
Sewer Fees Other Revenue	852,378 10,595		
Total Income			862,973
OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE EXPENSES:			
Chemicals Equipment Rental Outside Services Payroll Taxes Repairs & Maintenance Salaries/Plant Operators Supplies Transportation Utilities	6,518 6,289 12,141 6,480 200,563 95,814 4,437 14,056 109,904		
TOTAL O & M EXPENSES		456,202	
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES:			
Bad Debt Bank Charges/Lockbox Contributions DHEC Depreciation Insurance Interest Legal Fees Miscellaneous Office Supplies Payroll Services Payroll Taxes Property/Other Taxes Rate Case Expense Rent Salaries Telephones Telephones/Entertainment Vehicle Lease Extraordinary Ret. of Equip. TOTAL G & A EXPENSES	424 2,050 900 4,616 142,128 24,776 531,154 13,022 3,642 22,736 2,744 8,955 34,408 11,167 12,000 146,857 4,897 5,214 11,795 11,274	994,759	
TOTAL EXPENSES			1,450,961
NET INCOME (LOSS)			(587,988)

Palmetto Utilities, Inc. Balance Sheet (Per Annual Report) Test Year Ended April 30, 1996

	\$ <u>ASSETS</u>	\$
Utility Plant Utility Plant in Service Property Held for Future Use Less: Accumulated Depreciation	7,222,290 964,637 (376,471)	
Net Utility Plant		7,810,456
Current and Accrued Assets Cash in Bank Temporary Cash Investments Customer Accounts Receivable Other Accounts Receivable Prepayment	70,551 13,888 101,827 92,275 3,611	
Total Current and Accrued Assets	#	282,152
TOTAL ASSETS		8,092,608
LIABI	LITIES AND OTHER CRED	ITS
Equity Capital Common Stock Issued Unappropriated Retained Earnings Reacquired Capital Stock	1,000 (4,210,465) (262,222)	
Total Equity Capital		(4,471,687)
Total Long-Term Debt		6,200,506
Current and Accrued Liabilities Accounts Payable Accrued Taxes, Taxes Other Than I Accrued Int. on Other Liabilities		
Total Current and Accrued Liabili	ities	381,492
Total Deferred Credits		708,081
Total Contrib. in Aid of Construc	ction & Tap Fees	5,274,216
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND OTHER CREDI	<u>TTS</u>	8,092,608

REPORT

OF THE

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

PALMETTO UTILITIES, INC.

FOR AUTHORIZED SERVICE AREAS
IN
NORTHEASTERN RICHLAND COUNTY
IN
THE TOWN OF BLYTHEWOOD
AND
SOUTHWESTERN KERSHAW COUNTY

SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 96-378-S

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT REPORT

PALMETTO UTILITIES, INC

DOCKET NO. 96-378-S

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PRESENT AND PROPOSED RATES AND CHARGES

Palmetto Utilities, Inc. is operating under rates and charges approved by Commission Order No. 95-1098 issued June 1, 1995 in Docket No. 94-116-S for Wildewood Utilities, Inc. During the test year the Company had four sewer service rates in effect. The Commission granted Wildewood Utilities, Inc. a name change to Palmetto Utilities, Inc. in Docket No. 96-376-S, Order No. 96-867, Dated December 18, 1996.

SUMMARY OF PRESENT AND PROPOSED RATES

CUSTOMER	PRESENT RATE	PROPOSED RATE	AMOUNT OF INCREASE	PERCENT INCREASE
RESIDENTIAL	\$23.50	\$26.50	\$3.00	12.77%
COMMERCIAL PER SFE	\$23.50	\$26.50	\$3.00	12.77%

PROPOSED

RATES

PALMETTO UTILITIES, INC. ONE SMALLWOOD CIRCLE COLUMBIA, SC 29223 (803) 699-2409

PROPOSED SEWER RATE SCHEDULE

1. MONTHLY CHARGE

a. Residential - Monthly charge per single-family house, condominium, villa, or apartment unit:

\$26.50

 b. Commercial - Monthly charge per single -family equivalent

\$26.50

c. The monthly charges listed above are minimum charges and shall apply even if the equivalency rating is less than one (1). If the equivalency rating is greater than one (1), then the monthly charges may be calculated by multiplying the equivalency rating by the monthly charge.

Commercial customers are those not included in the residential category above and include, but are not limited to, hotels, stores, restaurants, offices, industry, etc.

The Utility will, for the convenience of the owner, bill a tenant. However, all arrearages must be satisfied before service will be provided to a new tenant or before interrupted service will be restored. Failure to pay for services rendered to a tenant may result in service interruptions.

2. NONRECURRING CHARGES

 a) Sewer Service Connection charge per single-family equivalent

\$250.00

b) Plant Impact Fee per single-family equivalent

\$800.00

c) The nonrecurring charges listed above are minimum charges and apply even if the equivalency rating of a non residential customer is less than one (1). If the equivalency rating of a non residential customer is greater than one (1), then the proper charge may be obtained by multiplying the equivalency rating by the appropriate fee. These charges apply and are due at the time new service is applied for, or at the time connection to the sewer system is requested.

3. BULK TREATMENT SERVICES

The Utility will provide bulk treatment services to Richland County ("County") upon request by the County. The rates for such bulk treatment services shall be as set forth above for both monthly charges and nonrecurring charges per single-family equivalent. County shall certify to the Utility the number of units or taps (residential and commercial) which discharge wastewater into the County's collection system and shall provide all other information required by the Utility in order that the Utility may accurately determine the proper charges to be made to the County. The County shall insure that all commercial customers comply with the Utility's toxic and pretreatment effluent guidelines and refrain from discharging any toxic or hazardous materials or substances into the collection system. The County will maintain the authority to interrupt service immediately where customers violate the Utility's toxic or pretreatment effluent standards or discharge prohibited wastes into the sewer system. The Utility shall have the unfettered right to interrupt bulk service to the County if it determines that forbidden wastes are being or are about to be discharged into the Utility's sewer system.

The County shall pay for all cost of connecting its collection lines into the Utility's mains, installing a meter of quality acceptable to the Utility to measure flows, and constructing a sampling station according to the Utility's construction requirements.

4. NOTIFICATION, ACCOUNT SET-UP AND RECONNECTION CHARGES

- a. Notification Fee: A fee of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) shall be charged each customer to whom the Utility mails the notice as required by Commission Rule R. 103-535.1 prior to service being discontinued. This fee assesses a portion of the clerical and mailing costs of such notices to the customers creating the cost.
- b. Customer Account Charge: A fee of \$20.00 shall be charged as a one-time fee to defray the costs of initiating service.
- c. Reconnection Charges: In addition to any other charges that may be due, a reconnection fee of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) shall be due prior to the Utility reconnecting service which has been disconnected for any reason set forth in Commission Rule R.103-532.4 and shall be changed to conform with said rule as the rule is amended from time to time.

5. BILLING CYCLE

Recurring charges will be billed bimonthly in arrears. Nonrecurring charges will be billed and collected in advance of service being provided.

6. LATE PAYMENT CHARGES

Any balance unpaid within twenty-five (25) days of the billing date shall be assessed a late payment charge of one and one-half $(1\ 1/2)$ percent.

7. TAX MULTIPLIER

Except as otherwise provided by contract approved by the South Carolina Public Service Commission, amounts paid or transferred to the Utility by customers, builders, developers or others, either in the form of cash or property, shall be increased by a cash payment in an amount equal to the income taxes owed on the cash or property transferred to the Utility by customers, builders, developers, or others and properly classified as a contribution or advance in aid of construction in accordance with the Uniform System of Accounts. Included in this classification are sewer service connection charges and plant impact fees.

8. TOXIC AND PRETREATMENT EFFLUENT GUIDELINES

The Utility will not accept or treat any substance or material that has been defined by the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") or the South Carolina Department of Environmental Control ("DHEC") as a toxic pollutant, hazardous waste, or hazardous substance, including pollutants falling within the provisions of 40 CFR §129.4 and 401.15. Additionally, pollutants or pollutant properties subject to 40 CFR §403.5 and 403.6 are to be processed according to the pretreatment standards applicable to such pollutants or pollutant properties, and such standards constitute the Utility's minimum pretreatment standards. Any person or entity introducing any such prohibited or untreated materials into the Company's sewer system may have service interrupted without notice until such discharges cease, and shall be liable to the Utility for all damages and costs, including reasonable attorney's fees, incurred by the Utility as a result thereof.

9. CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS

The Utility requires all construction to be performed in accordance with generally accepted engineering standards, at a minimum. The Utility from time to time may require that more stringent construction standards be followed in constructing parts of the system.

10. EXTENSION OF UTILITY SERVICE LINES AND MAINS

The Utility shall have no obligation at its expense to extend its utility service lines or mains in order to permit any customer to discharge acceptable wastewater into its sewer system. However, anyone or any entity which is willing to pay all costs associated with extending an appropriately sized and constructed main or utility service line from his/her/its premises to an appropriate connection point on the Utility;s sewer system may receive service, subject to paying the appropriate fees and charges set forth in this rate schedule, complying with the guidelines and standards hereof, and, where appropriate, agreeing to pay an acceptable amount for multi-tap capaacity.

11. CONTRACTS FOR MULTI-TAP CAPACITY

The Utility shall have no obligation to modify or expand its plant, other facilities or mains to treat the sewerage of any person or entity requesting multi-taps (a commitment for five or more taps) unless such person or entity first agrees to pay an acceptable amount to the utility to defray all or a portion of the Utility's costs to make modification or expansions thereto.

12. SINGLE FAMILY EQUIVALENT

The list set forth below establishes the minimum equivalency ratings for commercial customers applying for or receiving sewer service from the Utility. Where the Utility has reason to suspect that a person or entity is exceeding design loadings established by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control -Bureau of Water Pollution Control in a publication called "Guidelines for Unit Contributory Loadings to Wastewater Treatment Facilities" (1990), as may be amended from time to time or as may be set forth in any successor publication, the Utility shall have the right to request and receive water usage records from the provider of water to such person or entity. Also, the Utility shall have the right to conduct an "on premises" inspection of the customer's premises. If it is determined that actual flows or loadings are greater than the design flows or loadings, then the Utility shall recalculate the customer's equivalency rating based on actual flows or loadings and thereafter bill for its services in accordance with such recalculated loadings.

T	YPE OF	ESTABLISHMENT	EQUIVALENCY	RATING
1.	Airpor	(Per Employee)(Per Passenger)		.025
2.	Apartm	nents		1.0
3.	Assemb	oly Halls (Per Seat)		.0125
4.	Barber	Shop (Per Employee)		.025
5.	Bars,	Taverns (Per Employee)		.025
6.	Beauty	Shop (Per Employee)		.025
7.	Boardi	ng House (Per Resident)		.125
8.	Bowlin	ng Alley (Per Employee)		.025
9.	Camps	Resort, Luxury (Per Person)	Person)	.25 .125 .0875 .4375
10.	Car Wa	sh (Per Car Washed)		.1875
11.	Church	nes (Per Seat)		.0075
12.	Clinic	es, Doctor's Office (Per Employee)		.0375
13.	Countr	y Club, Fitness Center, Spa (Per Member)	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	.125
14.	Dentis	st Offices (Per Employee)		.0375

(Per Inmate).....

(Single Family).....

29.

Residences

.3125

1.0

PRESENT

RATES

APPENDIX A

WILDEWOOD UTILITIES, INC.
ONE SMALLWOOD CIRCLE
COLUMBIA, SC 29223
(803) 699-2409

FILED PURSUANT TO DOCKET NO. 94-116-S - ORDER NO. 95-1098 EFFECTIVE DATE: JUNE 1, 1995

SEWER RATE SCHEDULE

1. MONTHLY CHARGE (except Valhalla System)

-	Residential - Monthly charge per single-family house, condominium, villa, or apartment unit:	\$23.50
b.	Commercial - Monthly charge per single -family equivalent	\$23.50

1A. MONTHLY CHARGE - Valhalla System

- a. Residential Monthly charge per single-family house, condominium, villa, or apartment unit: \$21.50 EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 1995 \$23.50
- b. Commercial Monthly charge per single-family equivalent \$21.50 EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 1995 \$23.50
- c. The monthly charges listed above are minimum charges and shall apply even if the equivalency rating is less than one (1). If the equivalency rating is greater than one (1), then the monthly charges may be calculated by multiplying the equivalency rating by the monthly charge.

Commercial customers are those not included in the residential category above and include, but are not limited to, hotels, stores, restaurants, offices, industry, etc.

The Utility will, for the convenience of the owner, bill a tenant. However, all arrearages must be satisfied before service will be provided to a new tenant or before interrupted service will be restored. Failure to pay for services rendered to a tenant may result in service interruptions.

2. NONRECURRING CHARGES

a) Sewer Service Connection charge per single-family equivalent

\$250.00

b) Plant Impact Fee per single-family equivalent

\$800.00

c) The nonrecurring charges listed above are minimum charges and apply even if the equivalency rating of a non residential customer is less than one (1). If the equivalency rating of a non residential customer is greater than one (1), then the proper charge may be obtained by multiplying the equivalency rating by the appropriate fee. These charges apply and are due at the time new service is applied for, or at the time connection to the sewer system is requested.

3. BULK TREATMENT SERVICES

The Utility will provide bulk treatment services to Richland County ("County") upon request by the County. The rates for such bulk treatment services shall be as set forth above for both monthly charges and nonrecurring charges per single-family equivalent. County shall certify to the Utility the number of units or taps (residential and commercial) which discharge wastewater into the County's collection system and shall provide all other information required by the Utility in order that the Utility may accurately determine the proper charges to be made to the County. shall insure that all commercial customers comply with the Utility's toxic and pretreatment effluent guidelines and refrain from discharging any toxic or hazardous materials or substances into the collection system. The County will maintain the authority to interrupt service immediately where customers violate the Utility's toxic or pretreatment effluent standards or discharge prohibited wastes into the sewer system. The Utility shall have the unfettered right to interrupt bulk service to the County if it determines that forbidden wastes are being or are about to be discharged into the Utility's sewer system.

The County shall pay for all cost of connecting its collection lines into the Utility's mains, installing a meter of quality acceptable to the Utility to measure flows, and constructing a sampling station according to the Utility's construction requirements.

4. NOTIFICATION, ACCOUNT SET-UP AND RECONNECTION CHARGES

- a. Notification Fee: A fee of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) shall be charged each customer to whom the Utility mails the notice as required by Commission Rule R. 103-535.1 prior to service being discontinued. This fee assesses a portion of the clerical and mailing costs of such notices to the customers creating the cost.
- b. Customer Account Charge: A fee of \$20.00 shall be charged as a one-time fee to defray the costs of initiating service.
- c. Reconnection Charges: In addition to any other charges that may be due, a reconnection fee of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) shall be due prior to the Utility reconnecting service which has been disconnected for any reason set forth in Commission Rule R.103-532.4 and shall be changed to conform with said rule as the rule is amended from time to time.

5. BILLING CYCLE

Recurring charges will be billed bimonthly in arrears. Nonrecurring charges will be billed and collected in advance of service being provided.

LATE PAYMENT CHARGES

Any balance unpaid within twenty-five (25) days of the billing date shall be assessed a late payment charge of one and one-half $(1\ 1/2\%)$ percent.

7. TAX MULTIPLIER

Except as otherwise provided by contract approved by the South Carolina Public Service Commission, amounts paid or transferred to the Utility by customers, builders, developers or others, either in the form of cash or property, shall be increased by a cash payment in an amount equal to the income taxes owed on the cash or property transferred to the Utility by customers, builders, developers, or others and properly classified as a contribution or advance in aid of construction in accordance with the Uniform System of Accounts. Included in this classification are sewer service connection charges and plant impact fees.

8. TOXIC AND PRETREATMENT EFFLUENT GUIDELINES

The Utility will not accept or treat any substance or material that has been defined by the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") or the South Carolina Department of Environmental Control ("DHEC") as a toxic pollutant, hazardous waste, or hazardous substance, including pollutants falling within the provisions of 40 CFR §129.4 and 401.15. Additionally, pollutants or pollutant properties subject to 40 CFR §403.5 and 403.6 are to be processed according to the pretreatment standards applicable to such pollutants or pollutant properties, and such standards constitute the Utility's minimum pretreatment standards. person or entity introducing any such prohibited or untreated materials into the Company's sewer system may have service interrupted without notice until such discharges cease, and shall be liable to the Utility for all damages and costs, including reasonable attorney's fees, incurred by the Utility as a result thereof.

9. CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS

The Utility requires all construction to be performed in accordance with generally accepted engineering standards, at a minimum. The Utility from time to time may require that more stringent construction standards be followed in constructing parts of the system.

10. EXTENSION OF UTILITY SERVICE LINES AND MAINS

The Utility shall have no obligation at its expense to extend its utility service lines or mains in order to permit any customer to discharge acceptable wastewater into its sewer system. However, anyone or any entity which is willing to pay all costs associated with extending an appropriately sized and constructed main or utility service line from his/her/its premises to an appropriate connection point on the Utility;s sewer system may receive service, subject to paying the appropriate fees and charges set forth in this rate schedule, complying with the guidelines and standards hereof, and, where appropriate, agreeing to pay an acceptable amount for multi-tap capaacity.

11. CONTRACTS FOR MULTI-TAP CAPACITY

The Utility shall have no obligation to modify or expand its plant, other facilities or mains to treat the sewerage of any person or entity requesting multi-taps (a commitment for five or more taps) unless such person or entity first agrees to pay an acceptable amount to the utility to defray all or a portion of the Utility's costs to make modification or expansions thereto.

12. SINGLE FAMILY EQUIVALENT

The list set forth below establishes the minimum equivalency ratings for commercial customers applying for or receiving sewer service from the Utility. Where the Utility has reason to suspect that a person or entity is exceeding design loadings established by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control -Bureau of Water Pollution Control in a publication called "Guidelines for Unit Contributory Loadings to Wastewater Treatment Facilities" (1990), as may be amended from time to time or as may be set forth in any successor publication, the Utility shall have the right to request and receive water usage records from the provider of water to such person or entity. Also, the Utility shall have the right to conduct an "on premises" inspection of the customer's premises. If it is determined that actual flows or loadings are greater than the design flows or loadings, then the Utility shall recalculate the customer's equivalency rating based on actual flows or loadings and thereafter bill for its services in accordance with such recalculated loadings.

T	YPE OF ESTABLISHMENT	EQUIVALENCY	RATING
1.	Airport (Per Employee)(Per Passenger)		.025 .0125
2.	Apartments		1.0
3.	Assembly Halls (Per Seat)		.0125
4.	Barber Shop (Per Employee)		.025
5.	Bars, Taverns (Per Employee)		.025
6.	Beauty Shop (Per Employee) (Per Chair)		.025
7.	Boarding House (Per Resident)	• • • • • • • • • •	.125
8.	Bowling Alley (Per Employee) (Per Lane, No Restaurant, Bar, Lo		.025 .3125
9.	Camps Resort, Luxury (Per Person) Summer (Per Person) Day (With Central Bathhouse) (Per Travel Trailer Site	r Person)	.0875
10.	Car Wash (Per Car Washed)	• • • • • • • • • • • • •	.1875
11.	Churches (Per Seat)		.0075
12.	Clinics, Doctor's Office (Per Employee)		.0375
13.	Country Club, Fitness Center, Spa (Per Member)	,	.125

T	YPE OF ESTABLISHMENT EQUIVALENCY RA	TING
14.	Dentist Offices (Per Employee) (Per Chair)	.0375 1.125
15.	Factories, Industries (Per Employee) (Per Employee, With Showers) (Per Employee, With Kitchen Facilities) (Per Employee, with Showers, Kitchen)	.0625 .0875 .1 .1125
16.	Fairgrounds (Per Person Based on Average Attendance)	.0125
17.	Grocery Stores (Per 100 sq. ft. space, No Restaurant)	. 5
18.	Hospitals (Per Bed) (Per Resident Staff)	.5
19.	Hotels (Per Bedroom - No Restaurant)	.25
20.	Institutions (Per Resident)	.25
21.	Laundries (Self Service) (Per Machine)	1.0
22.	Marinas (Per Ship)	.075
23.	Mobile Homes	1.0
24.	Motels (Per Unit - No Restaurant)	.25
25.	Nursing Homes (Per Bed) (Per Bed, With Laundry)	.25 .375
26.	Offices, Small Stores, Business, Administration Bldg. (Per Person - No Restaurant)	.0625
27.	Picnic Parks Average Attendance (Per Person)	.025

TYPE OF ESTABLISHMENT	EQUIVALENCY	RATING
28. Prison/Jail (Per Employee)		.0375 .3125
29. Residences (Single Family)	• • • • • • • • •	1.0
30. Rest Areas, Welcome Centers (Per Person)		.0125 .025
31. Rest Homes (Per Bed) (Per Bed, With Laundry)		.25 .375
32. Restaurants Fast Food Type (Not 24 Hrs.) (Per 24 Hour Restaurant (Per Seat) Drive-In (Per Car Served) Vending Machine, Walk-up Deli (Per		.10
33. Schools, Day Care (Per Person) (Per Person With Cafeteria) (Per Person With Cafeteria, Gym &		.03/5
34. Service Stations (Per Car Served (Per Day) (Per Employee) (Per Car Served) (Per Car Wash (Per Car Washed)		.025
35. Shopping Centers, Large Department Stor (Per 1,000 sq. ft. Space - No Res	es, Malls taurants)	5
36. Stadiums (Per Seat - No Restaurants)	•••••	0125
37. Swimming Pools (Per Person _ With Sanitary Facil and Showers)	ities	025
38. Theatres Drive-in (Per Stall) Indoor (Per Seat)		0125 0125

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT EXHIBIT NO. 2

Utilities Department Exhibit No. 2 shows the effect of the proposed rates and charges on the Company's revenue. The requested rates will produce \$112,539 in additional revenue which is an increase of 12.77%.

EFFECT OF PROPOSED RATES AND CHARGES ON OPERATING REVENUE

	TEST YEAR PER BOOKS	ADJUSTMENT	TOTALS AFTER ADJUST.	PROPOSED INCREASE	TOTALS AFTER NEW RATE
SEWER FEE REVENUES	\$852,378	\$29,178(a)	\$881,556	\$112,539	\$994,095

(a) TO ADJUST TEST YEAR REVENUES TO REFLECT YEAR END RATES.

37,513 X \$23.50 = \$881,556 37,513 X \$26.50 = \$994,095

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT EXHIBIT NO. 3

Utilities Department Exhibit No. 3 shows the effect of the proposed rates and charges on the customer's bill. The increase in a residential customer's bill will be \$3.00 or 12.77%. The increase in a commercial customer's bill will be \$3.00 or 12.77% per SFE.

EFFECT OF PROPOSED INCREASE ON MONTHLY CUSTOMER BILL (RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL PER SFE) (FLAT RATE)

CUSTOMER	PRESENT	PROPOSED	AMOUNT OF	PERCENT
CLASS	BILL	BILL	INCREASE	INCREASE
RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL PER SFE	\$23.50	\$26.50	\$3.00	12.77%

BUSINESS OFFICE COMPLIANCE REVIEW REPORT

UTILITY: PALMETTO UTILITIES. INC. INSPECTOR: W. RICHARDSON OFFICE: COLUMBIA, SC **DATE:** JUNE 23, 1997 COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE: MRS. JULIE PROFILET IN COMPLIANCE YES OR NO* YES 1. Are all records and reports available for examination in accordance with Rule R.103-710 and R.103-510? YES 2. Are complaint records maintained in accordance with Rule R.103-716 and R.103-516? YES 3. Are the utility's rates, its rules and regulations, and its up-to-date maps and plans available for public inspection in accordance with Rule R.103-730 and R.103-530? Are procedures established to assure that every YES customer making a complaint is made aware that the utility is under the jurisdiction of the South Carolina Public Service Commission and that the customer has the right to register the complaint in accordance with Rule R.103-730 and R.103-530? Are deposits charged within the limits established by YES 5. Rule R.103-731 and R.103-531? YES 6. Are timely and accurate bills being rendered to customers in accordance with Rule R.103-733 and R.103-532? Are bill forms in accordance with Rule R.103-732 and YES 7. R.103-532? YES 8. Are adjustments of bills handled in accordance with Rule R.103-733 and R.103-533? YES Is the policy for customer denial or discontinuance of service in accordance with Rule R.103-735 and R.103-535?

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT EXHIBIT NO. 4 (CONT.)

YES	10.	Are notices sent to customers prior to termination in accordance with Rule R.103-735 and R.103-535?
YES	_11.	Are notices posted in a conspicuous place informing the public that copies of rate schedules and rules relating to service are available for inspection in accordance with Rule R.103-730 and R.103-530?
YES	_12.	Does the utility have adequate means (Telephone, etc.) whereby each customer can contact the water and/or wastewater utility at all hours in cases of emergency or unscheduled interruptions or service in accordance with Rule R.103-730 and R.103-530?
YES	_13.	Are records kept of any condition resulting in any interruption of service affecting its entire system or major division, including a statement of time, duration, and cause of such an interruption in accordance with Rule R.103-714 and R.103-514?
YES	_14.	Has the utility advised the Commission, in accordance with Rule R.103-712 and R.103-512 of the name, title, address and telephone number of the person who should be contacted in connection with: (a) General management duties? (b) Customer relations (complaints)? (c) Engineering operations? (d) Meter tests and repairs? (e) Emergencies during non-office hours?
3617	_15.	Number of customers the company has at present.
	*A	"NO" RESPONSE REQUIRES A NOTE IN THE COMMENT SECTION
COMME	NTS:	

REVIEW OF SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE COMPANY

On June 23 and July 23, 1997 personnel from the Public Service Commission of South Carolina conducted an audit of the Company and an inspection of the wastewater treatment plants owned and operated by Palmetto Utilities, Inc. The Company provides sewer service to approximately 3608 residential customers and 9 commercial customers in Richland and Kershaw County, South Carolina.

During the test year, Staff received two billing complaints from Palmetto Utilities customers.

Since the Notice of Filing was mailed to the Company's customers, Staff has received one Petition to Intervene from the Consumer Advocate's office, and 12 letters protesting the rate increase.

The following pages are a summary of Staff's inspection of the wastewater treatment facilities owned and operated by Palmetto Utilities, Inc.

SEWERAGE

UTILITY PALMETTO UTIL. INC	INSPECTED BY W. RICHARDSON	
SYSTEM VALHALLA WWTP	DATE INSPECTED JULY 23, 1997	
	CO. REP. MS. JULIE PROFILET	
TYPE OF PLANT	MECHANICALXLAGOON	
EXTENT OF TREATMENT	PRIMARYSECONDARY_XTERTIARY	
AERATORS	YESXNO	
CHLORINATOR	YESXNO	
OTHER CHEMICALS IN USE	YESXNO	
PLANT FENCED	YESXNO	
LOCKED	YES_X_NO_	
WARNING SIGNS VISIBLE	YESXNO	
HOLES IN FENCE	YESNOX	
EROSION OF DIKES	YESNOX	
ODOR	YESNOX_	
GRASS CUT	YES_X_NO	
DUCK WEED OR ALGAE	YESNOX	
GREASE BUILD-UP	YESNOX	
DEBRIS INSIDE PLANT	YESNOX	
COLOR OF EFFLUENT	CLEAR	
LIFT STATIONS	YES_XNONUMBER 2	
FAILURE WARNING SYSTEM	YES_XNO	
ELECTRIC WIRING	ACCEPTABLE X FAULTY	
OVERFLOWS	YESNOX	
LOCATION		
CONDITION OF ACCESS ROAD	GOOD_XBAD	
NEW CONSTRUCTION	YESXNO	
HOUSES	YESXNO	
UTILITY	YESNO_X	
NATURE	RESIDENCES	
FREQUENCY CHECKED BY OPERATO	DRDAILY	
APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF CUSTOM	MERS1200	
LOCATION OF UTILITY OFFICE	ONE SMALLWOOD CIR, COLA SC	
LOCATION OF SYSTEM N E COLU	JMBIA	
IS SUBDIVISION PROVIDED WATE	ER BY THIS UTILITY? YESNOX	
	BY WHOM? CITY OF COLUMBIA	
OTHER COMMENTS: DE-CHLORINAT	FION ALSO-CONS/PERMITTED 352,000 GP	 D

SEWERAGE

UTILITY PALMETTO UTIL. INC	. INSPECTED BY W. RICHARDSON						
SYSTEM SPEARSCREEK REG. WWT	P DATE INSPECTED JULY 23, 1997						
	CO. REP. MS. JULIE PROFILET						
TYPE OF PLANT	MECHANICALXLAGOON						
EXTENT OF TREATMENT	PRIMARYSECONDARY_X_TERTIARY						
AERATORS	YESNOX						
CHLORINATOR	YESNOX						
OTHER CHEMICALS IN USE	YESNOX						
PLANT FENCED	YES_XNO						
LOCKED	YESXNO						
WARNING SIGNS VISIBLE	YESXNO						
HOLES IN FENCE	YESNOX						
EROSION OF DIKES	YESNOX						
ODOR	YESNOX_						
GRASS CUT	YES_XNO						
DUCK WEED OR ALGAE	YESNOX						
GREASE BUILD-UP	YESNOX						
DEBRIS INSIDE PLANT	YESNOX						
COLOR OF EFFLUENT	CLEAR						
LIFT STATIONS	YES_X_NO_NUMBER 2						
FAILURE WARNING SYSTEM	YES_XNO						
ELECTRIC WIRING	ACCEPTABLE X FAULTY						
OVERFLOWS	YESNO_X_						
LOCATION							
CONDITION OF ACCESS ROAD	GOOD_XBAD						
NEW CONSTRUCTION	YESXNO						
HOUSES	YESXNO						
UTILITY	YESNOX						
NATURE	RESIDENCES						
FREQUENCY CHECKED BY OPERATO	ORDAILY						
APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF CUSTOM	MERS1500						
LOCATION OF UTILITY OFFICE	ONE SMALLWOOD CIR, COLA SC						
LOCATION OF SYSTEM N E COLU	MBIA						
IS SUBDIVISION PROVIDED WATE	R BY THIS UTILITY? YES NO X						
BY WHOM? CITY OF COLUMBIA							
OTHER COMMENTS: 750,000 GPD CONSTRUCTED/2.25 MGPD PERMITTED							